GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4000
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2007
RAILWAY LINE TO KASHMIR VALLEY AND ANDAMAN NICOBAR ISLANDS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to run railway line to Kashmir Valley and Andaman Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details and its present status thereof; and

(c) the time by which the train services are likely to be started there?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (c): Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramullah (292 km) new line National Project has been taken up to provide rail connectivity to Kashmir Valley. The section from Badgam to Kakapore including Srinagar has been completed and train services will be commissioned after inspection by Commissioner of Railway Safety and successful trial of DMU coach which are under transportation to Valley. Further the section from Udhampur to Katra, Qazigund -Kakapore and Badgam to Baramullah are targeted for completion in 2007-08.

To provide rail services in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an updating survey was carried out in 2002-03 for rail line between Port Blair and Diglipur. As per the survey report, the cost of 239 km long line was assessed at Rs. 867 crore with negative Rate Of Return. In view of unremunerative nature of the project, huge throwforward of ongoing projects and scarcity of resources the project was not taken up.